

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 15, 17, 18, and 21-24 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 18. Claim 5 has been cancelled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Amendments

The independent claims have been amended to clarify the invention. Specifically, the claims have been amended to clarify that the variable usage specification (VUS) specifies attributes of an object to be included in a transient object graph representation. Thus, the resulting transient object graph representation generated using the VUS only includes the objects specified in the VUS, and further, the aforementioned objects only include the specific attributes specified in the VUS. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0025] – [0027] of the instant specification. In addition, independent claims 19-22 have been amended to correct antecedent basis errors identified by the Examiner. Finally, dependent claims 2, 3, 6, and 19 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues arising from amendments made to independent claims 1 and 18. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 19-22 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis errors identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8, 12, 15-18, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,925,100 (“Drewry”). Claim 5 has been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 5. To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method for packaging an object graph. In particular, the method includes receiving a variable usage specification (VUS) and then using the VUS to create a transient object graph representation of the object graph. More specifically, the VUS specifies particular attributes within the object that should be included within the transient object graph representation. An example of a VUS is shown in Table 1 in the instant specification. Thus, the resulting transient object graph representation created using the VUS, only includes the objects specified in the VUS. Further, the content (with respect to the attributes) of each of the objects included in the transient object graph representation is limited to the attributes specified in the VUS. Thus, the transient object graph representation typically only includes trimmed objects as opposed to the entire object.

Turning to the rejection, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Drewry does not teach or suggest every aspect of the claimed invention.

Specifically, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Drewry only teaches obtaining an entire object (or group of objects). (*See, e.g.*, Drewry, col. 4, col. 7, and col. 12). However, Drewry fails to disclose any mechanism for (i) specifying specific attributes within an object; or (ii) using such a specification to create a transient object graph representation that includes an object whose content is limited to the specified attributes.

In view of the above, Drewry does not teach or suggest every aspect of amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Drewry. Amended independent claims 15, 17, 18, and 21-24 include essentially the same patentable limitations as amended independent claim 1, and, thus, are also patentable over Drewry. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Drewry in view of AAPA. To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Drewry fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, AAPA does not teach that which Drewry lacks. This is evidenced by the fact that AAPA is only relied upon to teach “converting the object graph into a byte stream” (*See* Office Action mailed April 7, 2005 at p. 6). Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Drewry and AAPA. Dependent claim 9 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Drewry in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,386 ("Freyburger"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Drewry fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Freyburger does not teach that which Drewry lacks. This is evidenced by the fact that Freyburger is only relied upon to teach "conversion of a graph into a hash table" (*See* Office Action mailed April 7, 2005 at p. 6). Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Drewry and Freyburger. Dependent claims 10 and 11 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Drewry in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,120 ("Swaminathan"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Drewry fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Swaminathan does not teach that which Drewry lacks. This is evidenced by the fact that Swaminathan is only relied upon to teach "compression of the object graph" (*See* Office Action mailed April 7, 2005 at p. 7). Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Drewry and Swaminathan. Dependent claim 13 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Drewry in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,854,841 ("Nakata"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Drewry fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Nakata does not teach that which Drewry lacks. This is evidenced by the fact that Nakata is only relied upon to teach "encrypting data before

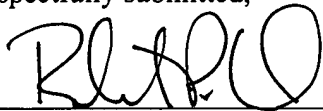
transmission between a server and a client" (See Office Action mailed April 7, 2005 at p. 7). Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Drewry and Nakata. Dependent claim 14 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/019001; P6414).

Dated: July 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant